The Life Story of Richard Nixon

Illustrated by A. S. Packer

Boyhood

HARD WORK was the keynote of the Nixon family. Richard Milhous Nixon, second son of Francis and Hannah Nixon, learned this early **while chopping weeds on his father's lemon farm** at Yorba Linda, Calif., where he was born Jan. 9, 1913. When the grove itself turned out to be a lemon, the family went to Whittier, Calif., and set up a general store and filling station . . .

. . . In school Nixon was a bright student. **He was a good debater, and made his debut in the seventh grade** on a boys' team upholding, against the girls, the affirmative, "Resolved, that insects are more beneficial than harmful." Searching for facts, Dick buttonholed an entomologist uncle. Nixon's team won in a breeze after he delivered a ringing declamation about the insect world . . .

. . . Religious faith is deeply ingrained in Richard Nixon. He grew up in a stern Quaker family, and his mother was firm about the family's church-going. **Young Richard attended church twice on Sunday and once at mid-week.** He also played the piano for Sunday school and later taught a class at Whittier. Afterward, as a lawyer, Nixon disliked hearing explicit details of divorce cases . . .

. . . In high school Dick liked football. He played tackle, but he never did make the varsity. **Dick rarely played in the games, but he'd hardly ever miss practice.** "The kid was just too light," said his former high school coach. "But he was wonderful for morale. He would cheer the other guys. It isn't easy to sit on the bench four years."

Tomorrow: College and Courtship

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College and Courtship

RICHARD NIXON, with characteristic grit, worked his way through Whittier College. He still helped out in the family store. **Once in a while he would give his mother a hand with the dishes,** but he always pulled the blinds so people couldn't see him at this kind of chore. Dick graduated with an A. B. degree in 1934, second in his class . . .

. . . Dick's outstanding achievements at Whittier earned him a scholarship to Duke University's law school. But even with the help of a scholarship Nixon was constantly strapped for money at Duke. **To help conserve his meager funds Dick lived with three other students in a small shack** in a wooded patch a mile and a half from the university. After taking his law degree in 1937, Nixon returned to Whittier and opened a California law office . . .

. . . Like any other professional man, Nixon plunged into the various community activities. He joined the chamber of commerce, civic clubs, even acted in a Little Theater group. **Once he played a district attorney opposite pretty Patricia Ryan, a local high school teacher.** The stage roles ultimately led to a real life romance, and Dick and Pat Ryan were married in 1940.

Tomorrow: The Big Decision

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SHORTLY AFTER Pearl Harbor, Nixon went to work for the OPA in Washington. But after eight months he enlisted in the Navy. Dick asked for sea duty immediately, and eventually got his wish. He went overseas with the Combat Air Transport Command and spent 15 months in the South Pacific as an operations officer. **Once, on Bougainville, his outfit was under Japanese bombardment for 28 out of 30 nights.** For his group was charged with the difficult and dangerous responsibility of hauling cargo to the fighting zones . . .

The Big Decision

. . . When Nixon returned to the states the Navy gave him some legal work to do. He was assigned to a team of experts that was settling war contracts. On one job his duties carried him to New York City, and Dwight Eisenhower's triumphant victory parade was held while he was there. **It was Nixon's first glimpse of Eisenhower.** And as he watched, an obscure Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy, little did he realize that in a few years he would be the running mate of the General in a bitter presidential campaign . . .

. . . Late in 1945, a California Republican citizens committee ran a newspaper ad for a candidate to run against New Deal Congressman Jerry Voorhis. **A friend called Nixon in Baltimore where he was awaiting discharge and asked to submit his name.** He agreed, and got the job over three others.

Tomorrow: The Hiss Case

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The Hiss Case

CONGRESSIONAL candidate Nixon knew that he was up against a tough opponent. Jerry Voorhis was a veteran politician who had been in Congress for 10 years. But Nixon went to work with a fury. He called on his old debating skill, and challenged the Democrat to five public debates. **Nixon raked Voorhis with a withering fire of New Deal evils** and won by about 15,000 votes . . .

. . . As a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, Nixon listened to a person named Whittaker Chambers testify before the committee that Alger Hiss, a former State Department lawyer, was a Communist. Hiss denied the charges and the committee almost dropped the case. But Nixon was unconvinced, and his dogged investigation helped to keep the case alive. He urged the committee to question each man separately and compare facts. **A dramatic moment came during a public hearing of the committee when Hiss faced Chambers to be identified.** It was Nixon's belief that Chambers was telling the truth because he knew too much about Hiss to be a stranger. He felt Hiss was lying because his testimony was much too smooth and evasive . . .

. . . The Hiss case broke wide open when the famed "pumpkin papers" came to light. The "papers" were microfilms of State Department documents. **This evidence clinched the case against Hiss for Nixon and Robert Stripling,** the committee's chief investigator. It linked Hiss with espionage and finally helped send him to prison for perjury.

Tomorrow: The Political Wars

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The Political Wars

HIS FINE WORK in the Hiss case already on record, Nixon ran for the Senate in 1950. His Democratic opponent was Helen Gahagan Douglas, a fellow member of Congress. **It was a rough campaign with Nixon touring California in a station wagon, Mrs. Douglas in a helicopter.** Often he'd say publicly: "Politics is awfully tough on a woman." But in the next breath he scorched her with the fact that she had voted 354 times on the same side as Rep. Vito Marcantonio of the American Labor Party. Representitive Nixon soundly whipped the actress-politician by 680,000 votes . . .

. . . The moment Eisenhower won the Republican nomination at Chicago in 1952, party wheel horses began looking around for a hard-hitting running mate for him. They didn't have to look very far. A glance at Nixon's record convinced them he was their man. He had a good personality, was an effective Communist fighter and had a good war record. He had fought corruption in government which was to be a vital campaign issue. So, **it was a great moment for Dick Nixon when he was nominated for Vice President** that hot summer night, and posed with Ike. He had come a long way from the California lemon grove . . .

. . . The Republicans were blistering the Democrats in the 1952 campaign with charges of Communist infiltration and corrupt government officials when a news reporter dug up a political bombshell. Nixon was accused of accepting a personal Senatorial slush fund of $18,000. Ike said he'd have to come "clean as a hound's tooth" — or else. **Nixon delivered a dramatic, man-to-man talk to the nation explaining his financial status.** The televised speech reassured his uneasy supporters, and was hailed as a great political save.

Tomorrow: A Working Vice President

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A Working Vice President

FROM the time Dick Nixon was sworn in he was determined not to be labeled a "Throttlebottom"—political lingo for a "do-nothing" Vice President. He wanted to be useful. He got his wish, too, for Ike introduced him to the intricacies of the executive branch from the start. With speeches, conferences and other activities Nixon has little time for anything else. He misses frolicking with his two energetic daughters, Tricia, 9, and Julie, 7. **About the only time Nixon has with them is from 7:15 in the morning until he leaves for his office in the Capitol at 8 . . .**

. . . The President's confidence in Nixon was reflected in the global good-will trip he sent him on in 1953. The job called for winning friends in the Far East, but we also needed vital facts about the area. **Nixon, accompanied by his wife, covered 45,539 miles in 10 weeks.** In the air between countries, Dick got ready for the next stop with thorough briefings by embassy officials. The Nixon formula was simple and direct — a handshake. At Tokyo, for example, throngs lined the streets, and Dick stopped the motorcade often to shake hands with people. Not only did he prove to be a good public relations man, he was an effective agent as well . . .

. . . Vice President Nixon has trained hard for his role during Ike's illness. **Besides briefings and conferences, the President had opened many doors for Dick** so that he would be qualified to step into such an emergency. Nixon sits with the Cabinet and the important National Security Council. He presides over both groups in the President's absence. A top official put it this way: "Dick knows every member of the White House staff, and has worked closely with the whole Eisenhower team." So, one thing is certain —the No. 2 man is well prepared for his present duties.

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